



ONE BALANCE SHEET, BUT MANY THANK-YOUS

Dear Members, Dear Colleagues,

As my term in office comes to an end, I would like to offer you a personal account of what I have done over these last 30 months and the goals that I have pursued, and hopefully, achieved. I would also like to thank you for all the support you have given me during this time. It has been a pleasure and an honour to serve as your President. I look forward to working with you in the months and years ahead.

My report starts with some general remarks and then focuses on the specific work that we have been able to undertake together in the policy fields of your committee. I am delighted that we have achieved so much.

I. INTRODUCTION

We have worked together to implement the **Lisbon Treaty**, which came into effect in December 2009, five months into my term, and which has defined the new position of the Parliament and helped us to use our strength as an institution to positive effect. The treaty widened the use of the 'Community method' as guarantor of the rights of all member states.

Not only have we increased the power of the EP in the service of democratic Europe, but we also enhanced the transparency of our work of parliamentarians. The new **Code of Conduct**, for example, is something of which we can all be proud.

A **transformed and strengthened Parliament** has become not only a key forum for political dialogue, reflection and dispute, but an important and real centre of decision-making, one shaping the future of Europe and its citizens.

It is thanks to you and your work that that the Parliament is now much more of an **equal partner** with the Council and Commission, as well as with various institutions outside the European Union. Our effective protection of citizens' right to privacy in the negotiations on **SWIFT**, for example, or our success in the negotiations on the rules on establishing the **European External Action Service** are good examples of our using our stronger role to good effect. We have secured the right to co-decide on EU Budgets, which will help us to support competitiveness, sustainable growth and job-creation in the Union. We have made a decisive impact on the design of future rules for **fiscal discipline** within the eurozone.

With a major economic crisis raging, the last 30 months have been a difficult term, but also something of a 'break-through' term. We had to learn to act not only within a new institutional framework, but also in a rapidly-changing global order. We have all witnessed and participated, in different ways, in a social media revolution, which went beyond the worldwide web to the streets of cities at home and abroad, especially in North Africa and the Middle East.

When I took office of as President, I had a clear strategy which set the priorities for my activities. I defined them in my inaugural policy speech in September, 2009. **What were those priorities?** Let me remind you briefly:

- 1) Increasing the power, position and effectiveness of the European Parliament.** We all know how important the Parliament is not only politically, but also symbolically. It is the essence of a European democratic system. Before everything else, I have always focussed on strengthening the Parliament (not only thanks to the implementation of the new Treaty), making its operations efficient as well as ensuring that it has a good image and is genuinely creative in responding to the challenges we face. (Please see below).
- 2) Tackling the economic and financial crisis.** We have sought not only to overcome the immediate effects of the crisis or to offer long-term support for countries in crisis, but - above all - to launch of the idea of a new European economic order.

We have aimed to maintain and reform the best of the European 'social model' whilst underpinning it with greater competitiveness and innovation. Decisions on the Budget, the implementation of the Europe 2020 Strategy or of the single market have been an important part of anti-crisis measures. We have used the Parliament's powers to secure better outcomes on European economic governance and supervision of the financial markets. I also tackled this in all my official meetings and visits.

- 3) Promoting the idea of the European Energy Community.** Energy policy in Europe must give a sense of security, be environmentally friendly and help to achieve economic growth, all at the same time. To achieve this, energy policy must be more coherent and Community-based. Promoting a more coherent approach to energy policy has been central to my term of office. I was particularly committed to raise this issue together with the fight against climate change throughout my mandate.

4) Developing stronger linkages with the outside world. The advent of the EEAS has created new opportunities in this area. I have focussed on strengthening the Union's role in global governance, in cooperation with global players, and developing closer ties to neighbourhood, including by promoting EU enlargement and supporting democratic movements and freer markets close to our borders. I have also sought to increase the efficiency of EU development policies.

5) Promoting human rights, solidarity and the idea of dignity for all people - despite different beliefs, backgrounds and religions, for all men and women, rich and poor. Human rights are a major 'export product' of Europe and an issue on which there is a strong consensus in the European Parliament.

6) Building and promoting the idea of a European Civic Space. We know a lot about the 'Europe of States' and the 'Europe of Institutions', but we do too little to bring Europe closer to citizens, to **make Europe**

"Buzek's Presidency will be remembered for political, symbolic and personal reasons.

Political, because he was the first to preside at the Parliament with its full Lisbon Treaty powers and was able to present the EP's views with authority at the opening of meetings of the European Council.

Symbolic, because he was the first President from the Eastern side of the former Iron Curtain, underlining the reunification of Europe after the fall of communism and, at the same time, bringing to the Presidency the richness of Polish culture.

Personal, because it was always a pleasure to see him and work with him. He is a real gentleman – one who listens to his interlocutors. He is a man with strong European convictions, always looking for 'more Europe'.

Fortunately, Jerzy will remain actively engaged in European issues as he moves on to new challenges. I look forward to our future encounters."

Herman Van Rompuy, President of the European Council



more 'civic'. I have tried to do this wherever possible, using all my meetings, visits and interactions with the media.

These were not just my priorities. They were, I think, the priorities of many, if not all of us as colleagues - resulting from, and in, our collective hard work. I am convinced that we have succeeded to an important degree. Thank you very much.

For us, as parliamentarians, the biggest strength is our readiness and ability to engage in debate. Do not let anyone tell you that debate is unproductive. The Greeks, who invented democracy, treated it as a **community of conversation, dialogue and debate**. What destroyed it was violence. Today's Europe is a community of debate and not of violence. And we can be proud of that.

II. For a stronger Parliament: work in the JURI, AFCO and PETI Committees

During the last two and a half years, in my meetings and actions in the areas of greatest interest to these committees, I have focussed on **four main areas**:

- A. Building a strong European Parliament: Maximising its potential power and impact;**
- B. Continuing to Reform the European Parliament;**
- C. Improving relations between the EU Institutions;**
- D. Building a European Civic Space.**

A) Building a strong European Parliament: Maximising its potential power and impact:

Central to my strategy has been to ensure that the institutional position of the European Parliament has been safeguarded and advanced, both as a result of the **Lisbon Treaty** and more generally. In this, we have broadly succeeded, in that today the Parliament is a co-legislature in most policy areas, including the annual Budget, and must give its agreement to most international agreements.

I worked very hard to try to secure the successful ratification of the Lisbon Treaty in all member states, including visits to **Ireland** before the second referendum and to the **Czech Republic** to discuss the situation in detail with President Vaclav Klaus. I scarcely need to explain that I also made every effort to ensure that my own country, Poland, attached its signature to the treaty too.

With your help, once the Lisbon Treaty came into effect in December 2009, we have managed a successful transition from the old cooperation procedure to the **co-decision procedure** in several major policy fields - notably the Common Agricultural Policy, Common Fisheries Policy, Justice and Home Affairs, and external trade - and overseen the introduction of the **consent procedure** in new fields, notably most **international agreements**. We struck



As the first President of the Parliament from one of the countries which joined the EU in 2004, Jerzy had to shoulder a great responsibility. He has done so with calm authority.

His time as President coincided with an important period for EU foreign policy, as we put into place the External Action Service following the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty. I'd like to thank him for supporting our work throughout this important time.

Baroness Catherine Ashton, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

the right balance between security and data protection in our approach to the EU-US **SWIFT Agreement**, where I intervened directly with the US Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton, on the subject.

We contributed constructively to the creation of the **European External Action Service (EEAS)**, using EP leverage over changes to the financial and staff regulations (requiring co-decision) and need for special budget to secure important concessions to 'communitise' EEAS structures and increase political accountability of the service and High Representative. I brought all our rapporteurs together on a regular basis to ensure we exercised maximum leverage over the outcome. At a more technical level, we negotiated practical arrangements for EP involvement in the new



comitology régime, with a new EP veto over delegated acts.

We defined and put in place arrangements for the new 'hybrid' Council presidency, based on following principles: the **President of the European Council** reports back on the meetings with heads of government after each European Council, whilst the **prime minister** of the member state exercising the rotating Presidency of the Council of Ministers presents and reports on its six-month programme at the beginning and end of each term.

Under my Presidency, the Parliament secured an arrangement whereby the **President of the European Council** gives a 'quick-fire' report-back to the EP Conference of Presidents - as well as reporting formally to plenary - and we have invited him to participate on an ad hoc basis in major debates, notably on the economic and financial crisis. Recently, we have received a commitment that, in his new role as **President of the Euro Summit**, he will also report formally to the EP plenary, as he already does after European Council meetings.

The Lisbon Treaty is a 'treaty of parliaments', so it is quite natural that we have also consolidated our links with **national parliaments** over these last 30 months. I have met with nearly all Speakers or Presidents of the 40 chambers in our 27 national parliaments - including

attending all three EU Speakers' Conferences, and chaired four **Joint Parliamentary Meetings** with our national colleagues. They dealt with overarching topics like "Towards a European Energy Community for the 21st Century?", "Beyond the crisis: How should Europe respond to the challenges ahead?", "Western Balkans - towards a more integrated Europe" and "Social Cohesion and Demographic Development in a Sustainable Europe".

Contrary to that the 27 interparliamentary committee meetings during my term of office dealt with precise and tangible questions very often relating to specific legislative dossiers. We also hosted a **special conference** with national parliaments on the post-2013 **Multiannual Financial Framework** and - for the first time ever - hosted an interparliamentary committee meeting with the participation of ministers and representatives of Member States' governments on the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy in autumn 2011.

B) Continuing to reform the European Parliament:

I have continued the **important process of internal reform** which marked the second half of the last European Parliament.

Under my Presidency, we have put in place, for the first time, a **credible and comprehensive system of**

financial disclosure for Members of the European Parliament, to increase reporting requirements and offer a coherent approach to the handling of conflicts of interest, based on the highest ethical standards and maximum transparency.

For this purpose, at my suggestion, we established a Bureau **Working Group on Codes of Conduct** for Members of the European Parliament, which I had the honour to chair. The WG's conclusions were **endorsed unanimously** by the Bureau and Conference of Presidents in June 2011 and submitted to the EP plenary in December 2011 without amendment. I think everyone can agree that we now have in place a much more credible and up-to-date set of arrangements that prove that colleagues are as honourable and professional in our daily conduct of business as we know ourselves to be.

In similar vein, under my Presidency, we secured agreement with the Commission on a new **Joint Transparency Register in the field of lobbying** - which became operational in June 2011 - building on the Joint Code of Conduct agreed in 2009. After EP encouragement, the Council of Ministers has now signalled a potential willingness to sign the agreement.



"Jerzy Buzek is the first President of the European Parliament from one of the member states that acceded to the EU in 2004. During his presidency, the Treaty of Lisbon entered into force and the European Parliament became equal legislator of the Union. For Jerzy Buzek, who experienced the Communist dictatorship, strengthening democracy and defending human rights are core values of his political action. He has publicly advocated them time and again.

As president, Jerzy Buzek has made a major contribution to make the new competences of the European Parliament come alive, and his great commitment to the European idea is of priceless value, now more than ever."

Angela Merkel, German Chancellor

We launched **Question Hour with the Commission President** in October 2009: one hour divided in two halves, with the second entirely by 'catch-the-eye'. Question Hour with **High Representative/Vice President and President of Eurogroup**, together with updated Question Time with **thematic groups of Commissioners** introduced in autumn 2011. We instituted a new procedure to allow **Written Questions** to be asked of the President of the European Council and High Representative.

I have also sought to promote greater transparency in the operation of **first-reading agreements** between the EP and Council under the co-decision procedure, by requiring EP committees to approach them in a more professional and systematic way, with a clear mandate and regular reporting of progress in negotiations.

C) Improving relations between the EU Institutions:

Under my Presidency, we negotiated a revised **EP-Commission Framework Agreement** (2009-14), deepening the 'special partnership' between the two institutions, with Commission accepting the principle of **equal treatment** of the Parliament and the Council in legislative and budgetary matters for the first time.

I helped to ensure that as **nominee for Commission President**, José Manuel Barroso presented a **five-year programme** ('political guidelines') to the Parliament, followed by personal presentations to each of the **political groups**.

I attached particular importance to establishing a regular **dialogue between the EP and the Council of Ministers on legislative planning**. Meetings are now scheduled at three levels: President of Parliament with prime minister of Presidency member state; Chair of the Conference of Committee Chairs with the EU affairs minister of Presidency; and EP Secretary General with the Council secretariat

and Presidency permanent representative.

I also instituted **monthly meetings between myself as EP President and both the President of the Commission and President of the European Council** to discuss current issues and smooth inter-institutional relations. We organised **regular exchanges of views** within the CoP with the President of the Commission, the President of the Eurogroup, the High Representative.

We established an **EP negotiating team with the Council** to discuss inter-institutional issues, starting with access to classified Council documents, participation in international conferences, and the routine inclusion of 'correlation tables' in EU directives.

The place of the European Parliament in the emerging European political system was seen in the key role we played in the recent **'Six Pack'** of legislation to improve **economic governance** within the eurozone. This

achievement built on our earlier impact in helping shape the contours of EU-level supervision of the **financial services** and improving the accountability and geographical balance of the new **European External Action Service**. In each case, the EP's amendments significantly reshaped arrangements and qualitatively improved the texts.

D) Building a European Civic Space:

The strength and vitality of today's Parliament is not only to be measured by its exercise of power. Our institution has an **important symbolic and cultural role** to play, underpinning the continuity, protection and promotion of **European values**. More power must be accompanied by greater accountability and transparency. This was the philosophy behind my advocacy of a proper Code of Conduct, which we jointly developed and approved by an overwhelming majority last year.

On taking the Presidency, I knew that a very important task was not only to strengthen the position of the Parliament, but also to make it more open to the citizen. We have a 'Europe of States' and a 'Europe of Institutions', but we still need to truly build a 'Europe of citizens'.

With this approach in mind, we have agreed practical arrangements for the introduction of the **European Citizens' Initiative** (starting in April 2012), with presentation on EP premises of petitions that secure more than one million signatures across the Union. We made those arrangements simpler, less bureaucratic and more user-friendly. Under our existing petitions' arrangements, we have received over **4,000 petitions** from citizens across the European Union.

I personally tried to **build bridges of mutual interest and empathy between the European institutions**

and our citizens. I had dozens of meetings and discussions with students and academics, business people and trade unionists, local government representatives, members of NGOs, and people from the worlds of culture and the arts. I also participated in the debates of the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions here in Brussels.

As President of the European Parliament, for the first time, I used a large scale social media and social networking sites to engage in a direct discussion with the public. I did this for two reasons: first, to increase the scope and speed of contact with citizens, and second to contact young people who are the main users of these networks - there too they should find and found a 'European community'! The reaction of internet users, especially in the defence of human rights, was energetic and immediate.

We have also increased funding for the development of **European political parties and foundations**, in advance of the 2014 European elections, in the hope of promoting a more genuine pan-European debate of policy issues.





“From his early involvement in the Solidarity movement in communist Poland onwards, Jerzy Buzek has always combined two elements: a strong love for freedom, and a quietly efficient manner to struggle for it. After Poland's first European elections in 2004, I was very happy to see him join the European Parliament. I knew that his background as a scientist and the experience from his premiership would be of enormous importance in the new, enlarged Parliament. His impact was immediately felt and appreciated well beyond the EPP political family.

Jerzy Buzek's triumphant election as President of the European Parliament in 2009 came at a moment when the European project faced serious challenges. Yet, in these two and a half years, his authoritative and timely interventions have offered Europe the kind leadership that only a statesman of his calibre can deliver.”

Wilfried Martens, President of the European People's Party

III. WORK IN ECON, EMPL and IMCO Committees

Over the last 30 months, we have seen the **financial crisis of 2008** spill over the Atlantic, turning into a general economic crisis first, then into a sovereign debt crisis, and finally into a **crisis of the euro**, our common currency, itself. We have done everything we could in the EP to try to create sound foundations for a more stable European economy, a Europe which will be less prone to crisis in the future.

During the last two and a half years, in my meetings and actions in the areas of greatest interest to these committees, I have focussed on **three main areas**:

- A. Strengthening economic governance in the EU - as we move through the crisis towards deeper integration;**
- B. Improving financial regulation - with more transparency and accountability in the financial services sector;**
- C. Promoting growth for Europe - building a strong economy through**

the capacities and potential of businesses and people.

A) Strengthening economic governance in the EU - as we move through the crisis towards deeper integration:

The economic crisis which Europe is living through today has exposed some internal weaknesses within the European Union. It became clear that a monetary union cannot function well without an economic union in tandem. It also became obvious that EU's economies are extremely interdependent. Therefore, in order to prevent future crises, improving and strengthening the economic governance mechanisms within the EU is essential.

It has been my objective to underline that the **European Parliament has to play a key role in this process**. I am particularly glad that I could convince the President of the European Council Hermann Van Rompuy to meet with our rapporteurs on the so-called 'Six Pack' on economic governance legislation, so that they could give their input to his report to the European Council on that topic.

In fact, without doubt, our greatest achievement in this area has been the **adoption of the 'Six Pack'** after lengthy negotiations with the Council. As a result of the legislative package, today we have tighter surveillance of the Stability and Growth Pact and new instruments to tackle macro-economic imbalances. Through **regular meetings** with the President of the European Council, the President of the European Commission, the President of the Euro Group and the President of the European Central Bank, I have tried to facilitate and better co-ordinate the process of strengthening economic governance and pushed for a stronger role for and inclusion of the Parliament in this process.



I was delighted too that the heads of state and governments of the eurozone agreed to my demand at the European Council last December that the EP be included in the negotiations on a new international agreement on stricter budgetary rules. The Commission and the Council have agreed to my idea of using, on a strictly limited basis involving all three institutions, a **fast-track legislative procedure** for specific legislative measures necessary to tackle the crisis.

As the President of the Parliament, I have always been a firm defender of **resolving matters through the Community method and preserving one Europe**. In personal discussions with the political leaders in the Member States, I have warned that introducing new solutions **should not lead to the development of a 'two-speed' Europe**.

When paying official visits to **countries facing the crisis most acutely** – Greece, Portugal and Ireland, and earlier to Latvia and Lithuania – I have stressed the urgent need for solidarity to be matched by genuine responsibility.



B) Improving financial regulation - with more transparency and accountability in the financial services sector:

An important lesson of the economic and financial crisis was not only to have balanced budgets but also to **make the financial markets more transparent and better supervise financial players**. In the past two and a half years, we established many new rules with the aim of increasing confidence in the financial system and to make it more effective. The adoption of the **Financial Supervisory Package**, which created three new authorities and the European Systemic Risk Board, was a great success. The Parliament decisively improved the draft legislative proposals tabled by the Commission in this package. I paid particular attention to this important legislation and was in close contact with the rapporteurs throughout the negotiations to deliver their strong message on behalf of the Parliament to the leaders of the EU institutions and to the heads of state and governments.

During my presidency, **other significant legislation** regulating the financial market have been endorsed, including the measures on alternative investment fund managers, short-selling and credit default swaps, remuneration policy and capital requirements. We can therefore proudly claim that we made significant headway, even though major challenges - like the question of the global introduction of a financial transaction tax - still remain to be resolved.

C) Promoting growth for Europe - building a strong economy through the capacities and potential of businesses and people:

The European Union in recent years has faced **low economic growth and high unemployment**, which have to be tackled urgently. Investing in research and innovation, developing stronger infrastructure and fostering a green economy could make Europe more competitive and would help our continent to maintain a leading position in the world. As the President of the Parliament, I have often underlined that **growth can only be achieved through the strength of enterprises and people alike**.

Without innovative companies, whose technologies, services and products are competitive on world markets, we will not be able to sustain the EU's crucial position in the global economy over the long-term. This in turn necessitates that the European entrepreneurs are able to enjoy the best possible opportunities within the Union, which is not possible without the **elimination of all remaining barriers to the effective operation of the European single market**. The idea of re-launching the work on EU's single market was strongly advocated by the European Parliament. Starting as early as autumn 2009, I held discussions with Professor Mario Monti several times during the preparation of his report, which served as a powerful basis for the **Single Market Act**. I also actively supported the conclusions drawn from the report, as well as the steps undertaken by the Commission and by Council Presidencies in this area. On numerous occasions, I have called for the quick completion of the single market and proper transposition, application and enforcement of the existing legislation, for example in services and energy.



Jerzy Buzek gave a new dimension to the presidency of the European Parliament, which he exercised with authority and an open spirit. On the one hand, he brought with him the wind of the East, the mark of the countries that joined the EU during the great enlargement. On the other hand, he has taken risks as a militant for the European cause by associating himself with Notre Europe and with me in order to propose a European Energy Community.

For all of us, he has become an example and a point of reference in our ever unbroken hope for a Europe that is united in its diversity, influential, generous, and able to overcome even the greatest of crises.

Jacques Delors, former president of the European Commission, the first person to hold this function three times (Jan. 1985 – Dec. 1994)



IV. WORK IN the ENVI and ITRE Committees

During the last two and a half years, in my meetings and actions in the areas of greatest interest to these two committees, I have focussed on **three main areas**:

- A. Building a European Energy Community - to strengthen economic security and the competitiveness of the EU;**
- B. Fostering an environmentally sustainable and healthy Europe;**
- C. Promoting growth through innovation and promotion of enterprise.**

A) Building a European Energy Community

Europe needs **energy solidarity**, increasing its competitiveness and growth. That is why, together with Jacques Delors, I have proposed in May 2010 the establishment of the **European Energy Community**, which underlines three strategic issues: creating a single market in energy by building cross-border connectors, coordinating joint purchases of energy resources from outside of the EU, as well as undertaking joint research and innovation projects in the field of energy. Those goals can only be achieved if we act together.

The **European Parliament, European Commission and European Council** (the latter at its meeting on energy policy on 4 February 2011) were able to give their support to this idea, seeing it as a political umbrella for a range of

initiatives and a vehicle for tying together elements of European energy policy. I presented the concept of a European Energy Community to all national leaders I met in the Member States. We organised a **Joint Parliamentary Meeting** in June 2010, to which we invited parliamentarians from national parliaments of the member states and the candidate countries. I deepened that discussion in meetings with MPs in their capitals when visiting their country. I also invited **European think tanks** to the Parliament and organised meetings with heads of **major companies trading gas, producing electricity and managing networks**, to which I invited members of your committees. And of course I mentioned this concept in numerous meetings with and speeches to representatives of the academia and to non-governmental organisations. Europe must steer the **green revolution**, which will also allow it to emerge from the crisis. This potential has already been recognised in the United States and China.

No EU member state should remain isolated from the **European gas and electricity networks** after 2015 or see its energy security jeopardized by lack of the appropriate connections. The necessity to urgently progress to an early agreement on the proposal on energy efficiency, which should establish an ambitious and flexible framework in line with the 20% target for 2020, has now been accepted by all member states, but still needs to be translated into more concrete measures for energy infrastructure. In November 2011, the Council endorsed

conclusions aiming at enhanced coherence and coordination of EU external energy policy ensuring inter alia that agreements with key supplier and transit countries are fully consistent with EU internal market legislation. The concept of a European Energy Community is firmly taking hold. Further steps in that direction can be and will be achieved with an agreement on the **low carbon 2050 strategy** and thorough consideration of the **energy roadmap 2050**, as recently presented by the European Commission, which provides a detailed analysis on long term action in the energy sector and other related sectors.

Over the last 30 months, I have also had the opportunity to intensively support concrete initiatives undertaken by the European Parliament and the Commission in the area of energy policy, such as projects like **Nabucco, Desertec and the Mediterranean Ring**, all of which featured prominently in my meetings during official visits to the EU's neighbourhood (in Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, Turkey, Azerbaijan, Ukraine, Russia).



B) Fostering an environmentally sustainable and healthy Europe:

The quality of our environment was one of key priorities of my mandate. I could employ **meetings with Connie Hedegaard and Patricia Espinosa**, chairing the **COP 15 and COP 16** negotiations respectively, to present the EU position on climate protection, and promoting it together with our official EP delegation during the **COP summit in Copenhagen** (2009) as well as during my visits to the United States (April 2010), China (May 2010) and Russia (June 2010), at a time when we had to reassert mutual trust and new vigour in the world's commitment to fight climate change. At home in Europe, I used the mandate conferred on me as President of the Parliament to support **regional and municipal initiatives**, among them those put

forward by the **Committee of Regions** and the Commission, like the **Covenant of Mayors**, but also those promoted by non-governmental institutions and business organisations to make climate protection work.

During my direct meetings with European citizens, students, youth and civil society it was of particular concern to me to encourage a wider discussion on consumers' habits and behaviour. I attended meetings with the European Economic and Social Committee, organised a **joint conference with the Prince of Wales**, and appeared with Sir **Paul McCartney** during his campaigning visit to the Parliament. Last but not least, under my chairmanship, the Bureau of the European Parliament has carried forward the **EMAS initiative** and should achieve be able to achieve a **20 percent decrease of the EP's burden on the environment by 2020**.

C) Promoting growth through innovation and promotion of enterprise:

Many countries in Europe are undergoing continued stagnation, if not recession. As the Parliament's former Rapporteur on the 7th Framework Programme for research and innovation, it is my strong belief that for Europe to increase its competitiveness, we need to increase the **volume and quality of our expenditure on research and innovation, development, and green technologies**, to urgently improve the **links between academia and the industry**, and to promote a **spirit of entrepreneurship**.

I have stressed these points during my meetings and discussions with Commissioners and ministers, and with the representatives of the academia and industry, both in the Parliament and during my visits to member states. I have strongly promoted initiatives supporting small and medium-size enterprises, attending SME congresses, as well as in direct meetings with entrepreneurs.

From the beginning, I was engaged in our joint efforts aimed at completing the creation of the **European single market**, discussing the outline and the main ideas for his single market report with Mario Monti in November 2009. On your behalf, I have often stressed the need to complete the internal market and to boost growth and competitiveness, increasing the number of European patents, developing fast internet and digital market, as well as eliminating legal, tax and bureaucratic barriers.

V. Work in the BUDG, CONT, TRAN, REGI, AGRI and PECH Committees

The **Budgets** Committee, the **Budgetary Control** Committee, the Committee on **Transport and Tourism**, the Committee on **Regional Development**, the Committee on **Agriculture and Rural Development** and the **Fisheries** Committee have seen their importance increase significantly with the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty.

A major change is that the European Parliament now co-decides on all aspects of the EU's **annual Budget** and is finally on an equal footing with the Council. In addition, the Lisbon Treaty makes the EP a core actor in the discussion on the **Multiannual Financial Framework**. Thus the adoption of pluriannual budgets now needs the consent of the Parliament. This means that the EP will play an important role in the process and can veto the MFF, if it is unhappy with the outcome.

During the last two and a half years, in my meetings and actions in the areas of greatest interest to these committees, I have focussed on **five main areas**:

A. Ensuring a credible EU Budget as key to a strong Europe;

B. Reorienting EU spending towards growth and competitiveness;

C. Involving the EP in the MFF negotiations;

D. Promoting better management of EU programmes and funds;

E. Improving transport links in a more integrated Europe.

A) Ensuring a credible EU Budget as key to a strong Europe:

The EU Budget has an enormous role to play in promoting growth and competitiveness in Europe. European spending can create substantial **added value** in terms of greater efficiency, economies of scale and higher growth. Certain types of expenditure, for example on research and infrastructure, are usually more effective, almost by definition, when undertaken on an EU-wide basis. There is a potential for everybody to gain from the EU Budget, and substantial savings are possible in national budgets by pooling EU efforts.

The 2011 and 2012 annual Budget procedures were the first two to take place under the **Lisbon Treaty**, with only **one reading** by both Council and Parliament. I **chaired the Budget conciliation process** (between Parliament and Council) and used these two procedures to reinforce a **strategic dialogue** with

Council and Commission about long-term spending objectives. During the 2011 Budget negotiations, I proposed a series of strategic priorities to the political group leaders, which the EP managed to secure to a large extent during the negotiations with the Council.

More specifically, the Parliament successfully called for **greater focus on European added value** as part of the routine assessment of new legislative proposals having a budgetary impact. It also insisted on the provision of **funding for new policies** stemming from the Lisbon Treaty in up-coming 2012 and 2013 Budgets. Moreover, it obtained a **'proper involvement' of the EP in the MFF negotiations** and the establishment of a regular dialogue with Council and Commission on the matter.

As for the substance of the Budget itself, in both the 2011 and 2012 Budget negotiations, the Parliament succeeded in **reorienting overall EU spending** at the margin in favour of **growth and investment**. In connection with the new challenges following the **'Arab Spring'**, the EP also put strong emphasis on Europe's external relations, in particular the Neighborhood Policy.



"How pleasant must be the surprise of those who set off to meet Jerzy Buzek for the first time! They are getting ready for a meeting with an important person who may seem intimidating. And yet, they meet a modest and elegant man who breaks the ice after a minute and embarks on a friendly exchange with a view to resolve problems, not to augment his own importance.

I felt pride that a Pole was elevated to this prestigious function in the EU and I knew that I would have in the European Parliament a substantive and agreeable partner during difficult budget disputes. He is a person who shines irrespective of his formal role."

Janusz Lewandowski, Commissioner for Financial Planning and Budget

B) Reorienting EU spending towards growth and competitiveness:

My term in office as President has been marked by the preparations for the 2014-20 MFF. In addition to ensuring that the Parliament is properly involved in the MFF negotiations, central to my objectives has been ensuring that the EU has sufficient means in the next MFF to achieve our common goals, in particular to successfully implement EU 2020 strategy, stimulate growth and create jobs.

The EP established a **Special Committee on the Financial Perspectives** in 2010 to propose political guidelines for the European Commission on the post-2013 MFF. For the first time, the EP adopted a report on political priorities before the Commission published its proposals. In defining its MFF proposals, which were presented end of June 2011, the Commission has taken account of the views of the Parliament on several major fronts.

The Commission's proposals focus on investment, notably on the implementation of the 2020 Strategy, as advocated by the EP. They also echo the President's emphasis on solidarity with the poorest member states and regions, and solidarity on energy, in tackling migration, and with third countries - including Neighbourhood Policy, which is given special emphasis. They accept the EP's central proposition that **'freezing the next MFF was not a viable option**, an increase of resources is needed' and call for a significant reform in the system of **own resources**, as favoured by the Parliament.

C) Involving the EP in the MFF negotiations:

During my term in office, I have put a lot of energy in securing the close involvement of Parliament at all

levels throughout the MFF negotiations process. So far, we have made good progress. A system of regular dialogue with Council and Commission at the **levels of the Presidents of the three institutions** has been established, with meetings two to three times per Presidency of the Council. Moreover, following the EP efforts during the 2011 Budget negotiations, the Hungarian and three future Council presidencies have accepted to hold exchanges of views before and debriefings after the General Affairs Council meeting dealing with the MFF;



A series of **briefing and debriefing meetings** have already taken place on both the MFF - with the discussion of important issues such as agriculture and cohesion, which are the two main categories of expenses - and own resources. This regular dialogue between the three institutions will be essential in achieving an early agreement on the MFF, hopefully by the end of 2012.

Important too in ensuring a successful outcome on the MFF is the involvement of **national parliaments** into the discussion. I

sponsored a special high-level conference to discuss the MFF, involving all the EU institutions and the 27 national parliaments, was held in Brussels on 20 and 21 October 2011. The upcoming Danish Presidency of the Council immediately announced that a similar conference would be organised in 2012.

D) Promoting better management of EU programmes and funds:

In my numerous exchanges and regular meetings with representatives from the European Council and the Council of Ministers as well as with members of the European Commission, I have equally stressed that we should pay attention to the big reform packages closely related to the MFF: the **Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)**, the **Regional and Cohesion Policy** and - on a smaller scale - the **Common Fisheries Policy** and the new **Research and Innovation Programme (Horizon 2020)**. We started the discussions on these reform packages well prepared, not only by the report drawn up by our special SURE Committee, but also by the own-initiative reports elaborated in the specialised committees you represent. As we are confronted with a tight timeframe, I regarded it as of crucial importance that the discussions in the two branches of the legislature do not go off in diverging directions.

I very much supported the idea of the Polish Presidency to organise a meeting on CAP reform between the governments of the 27 member states (mostly Ministers) and the **Parliament's Agriculture Committee**, which took place in Brussels on 7 November 2011. Such dialogues should be taken up by coming Presidencies also in other areas like the reform of the Common Fisheries policy and the reform of the cohesion policy and the structural funds.

As I said during my inaugural speech, '**Cohesion policy** must remain a priority in the next Community budget, if we want to achieve full integration of our reunited continent. The single market is our great achievement. We must protect it and consolidate it to ensure that Europe remains competitive'.

On 6 October 2011, Commissioner Hahn presented in the European Parliament, in the framework of an **Interparliamentary Committee Meeting** with national parliaments, the Commission's legislative proposal for Cohesion Policy 2014-20. The Parliament hit the ground running, having already indicated what it wanted and expected of the Commission.



Throughout my mandate, I gave specific attention to the issue of **regional policy and cohesion**. During my numerous encounters with Prime Ministers, Ministers, Commissioners and national politicians, I have consistently repeated the Parliament's priorities for the reform of the Cohesion Policy. Wherever appropriate, I advocated the principle of solidarity among the member states and the importance of using the Community method when identifying and delivering common goals.

I always stressed Parliament's conviction that European **structural policy** can make a major contribution towards overcoming the economic and financial crisis, as it tends to be oriented towards

innovation and removing disparities, strongly encouraging European regions to upgrade their infrastructure, increase regional innovation potential and boost environmentally sustainable development.

Among the special highlights of my time in office were being able to take part in the annual **Open Days on Regional Policy**, which the European Commission organises with the Committee of the Regions. I also took part regularly in the 'Covenant of Mayors', an initiative of the Commission, where mayors of the EU and third countries can commit themselves to a sustainable energy management of their cities. I used this event to stress the Parliament's commitment to energy sustainability and clearly stated the importance of local management in implementing European policies (for example, in climate change).



In October 2011, Commissioner Ciolos presented the Commission's legislative package on **CAP reform**. The Parliament's own-initiative report on the CAP towards 2020, adopted in June 2011 had already pointed towards a strong and sustainable CAP, built upon two pillars and contributing towards food security. I have stressed the need for the CAP to support environmental protection and multifunctional rural development. I had several meetings with Commissioners on CAP issues.



In July 2011, Commissioner Damanaki presented the Commission's proposals for reform of the **Common Fisheries Policy** (CFP) to the Fisheries Committee. The EU fisheries sector remains fragile and vulnerable to economic fluctuations, with most fish stocks in EU waters over-fished. The weak profitability of the sector exposes many fishermen and coastal communities to serious problems whenever the economic environment worsens. In meetings with Commissioners, I spoke to the Parliament's main positions about the sustainability of the CFP and the importance of marine resources in developing the regions.

E) Improving transport links in a more integrated Europe:

Last but not least, the work of the Committee for Transport and Tourism has met my keen interest. As you might recall from my inauguration speech, the interconnected issues of Energy and Climate Change have been amongst the priorities of my Presidency.

You cannot discuss these two issues without looking at what your committee works and decides on. Yours are amongst the most future-oriented amidst the European policies. Many important challenges we are facing today are debated in TRAN. None of them can be solved

by one country alone but need a European if not global approach. **Greener transport and freight transport** in general, a more **sustainable approach to urban mobility** as well as **clean maritime shipping** are topics of keen interest not only to experts and politicians but to all our citizens. In my talks about Energy and Climate Change to different interlocutors, Commissioners, national ministers and citizens alike, the work of your Committee was regularly mentioned.

In November 2010, I took part in a Regional Forum of the European Investment Bank on Infrastructure, Energy and Transport in Warsaw. Together with Bankers, CEOs from Energy companies and Politicians we discussed the importance to sustain economic development, ensure the **security of energy supply** and protect the environment.

All actors were called upon to overcome multiple challenges including responding to increased generation costs, diversifying fuel sources, modernizing capacity, deploying new technologies, liberalizing markets, enforcing European directives and mitigating the social impact of undergoing changes. I took this to heart and keenly followed and spread the decisions of your committee.

Equally, I was quite content to communicate further important decisions of your Committee so far in this election period such as the regulation on the rights of passengers in bus and coach transport, the regulation on investigation and prevention of accidents and incidents in civil aviation, the Eurovignette and last but by far not least, the important and very needed **Directive on a Single European Railway Area**.



“The election of Jerzy Buzek as President of the European Parliament was a magnificent sign that the unification process on our continent is progressing. I have always supported Buzek’s candidature and could not have wished for a better nominee. As a German especially, his election victory filled me with joy as it symbolised the Republic of Poland’s taking of a permanent place at the heart of the European Union.

During his presidential term, he has strongly committed himself to Polish-German friendship and to his greater goal of enhancing relations between all 27 Member States of the European Union. For all this, I would truly like to say “thank you”.

Hans-Gert Pöttering, President of European Parliament (2007–2009)

“Jerzy Buzek was a distinguished President of the EP, highly respected by everyone for his upright personality and the dignity with which he held office.

This was a period of great difficulty for all our citizens, and an immense challenge for our European institutions. Nevertheless, he rose to that challenge with calm authority. He successfully steered our institution through those turbulent waters with a steady hand, and he secured a proper balance both between EU institutions and within the European Parliament.”

Martin Schulz, chairman of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats



“The EPP Group was proud to propose Jerzy Buzek as our candidate for President of the European Parliament.

At home, in the EU, Jerzy Buzek has used the office of President to make sure that further political and economic integration will always involve the European Parliament so as to guarantee democratic oversight for our citizens. I am proud to be from the same political family as Jerzy Buzek, the first President from a reunited Europe.”

Joseph Daul, Chairman of the EPP Group in the EP



'President Buzek is a clear symbol of the new Europe - of the Europe that has overcome its history. He stands for the Europe that fought against oppression and believed in unity - the re-uniting of our old continent. As such Jerzy has always been careful to find the just way, mindful of the historical differences, but clear about the direction that must be followed.'

Guy Verhofstadt, president of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe in the EP

“Jerzy Buzek, the first President of the European parliament from the East of the European Union, has in this office continued to do what he had always strived for: to reinforce the bridges between East and West – between old and new Member States. During the new and ever growing crisis of the EU, his Polish voice has been loudly and clearly heard stating his strong and unshakeable commitment to more Europe.”

Rebecca Harms and Daniel Cohn-Bendit, co-presidents of European Greens-European Free Alliance in the EP



“President Buzek was the first EP President from the Central or East European countries which joined the EU after 2004. This was very significant for us, who came from the same part of Europe. He has presided over the parliament during a very interesting period which has seen both euphoria and depression within the EU. He has seen the final ratification of the new treaty, the eurozone crisis, fierce debate over future EU financing, and a new code of conduct for MEPs. ”

Jan Zahradil, Chairman of the European Conservatives and Reformists Group in the European Parliament

“For the last two years, Jerzy Buzek has been the smiling face of the European Parliament. Unflustered and unflappable, he has presided over a huge multinational institution with deftness and aplomb.

His achievement has been to minimise turbulence and to show leadership through hard work, good humour and effective compromise.

He has raised the profile of his home country, Poland; has proved that the recent entrants of the EU can participate at the highest level, and has demonstrated that differences among members of the European family can be overcome by a spirit of purposeful cooperation.”

Prof. Norman Davies, historian



VI. Work in DROI, CULT, LIBE and FEMM Committee

During my term in office I have always regarded the work of the **Subcommittee on Human Rights**, the **Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs**, the **Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality** and the **Committee on Culture and Education** as critically important to the defence of our values, individual rights, and the dignity of all people, regardless of belief, background, religion, or sexual orientation, and regardless of whether they are men and women, rich and poor.

Europe is not only the Community of States, but a Community of Values: human rights, freedom, justice, solidarity and equality. I believe that the European Parliament and its President have a special mission to defend the rights of every individual and to support efforts towards democratisation. The very idea of democracy is at the heart of Europe's cultural and political legacy and it continues to have a great political potential. It needs to be used. I did this, visiting several countries which are undergoing profound changes and travelled to those, where violations of human rights and democratic standards still occur regularly. In my activities, I also took advantage of modern means of social communication wherever I could.

During the last two and a half years, in my meetings and actions in these areas I have focussed on **five main areas**:

- A. Fostering civil society;**
- B. Defending citizens' rights;**
- C. Promoting human rights and gender equality;**
- D. Supporting the democratic processes in the wider world.**
- E. Implementing Art. 17 of the TEU on intercultural and religious dialogue**

A) Fostering civil society:

The European Parliament is involved in various civil society activities related to culture, education or political engagement. **Patronage by the European Parliament** is a means to support and enhance these engagements, transporting European values. During my term of office I used this means *inter alia* to support the activities bodies such as the **European Union Youth Orchestra**. I had the honour to represent the Parliament, for example at the **European Youth Parliament** or at the **European Book Prize**, just to mention two of the more known. The **Lux Film Prize**, which we awarded in December 2011 for the fifth time, helps promote a sense of European culture in the audiovisual field.



During the heated debates around the **Hungarian media law**, I voiced the critical view taken by this Parliament, defending the freedom of the press and freedom of expression. When there was a conflict about the introduction of **language requirements in public life in the Slovak Republic** in 2009, I went to Bratislava and Budapest to speak to the governments of both countries - but also with the Hungarian minority in Slovakia - trying to calm the waters and to safeguard the rights of a minority

as well as the right of a government to define the need for a common public language.

B) Defending citizens' rights:

The European Parliament's role in securing improvements in the EU-US Agreement on the Terrorist Finance Tracking Programme (TFTP) - or **SWIFT** - was an important institutional success for the EP in the post-Lisbon era. Our rejection of the interim agreement in February 2010 ensured that a much better balance was struck between the needs of security and data protection in the final agreement later in the year. I discussed the issue intensively with US interlocutors, including the US Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton.



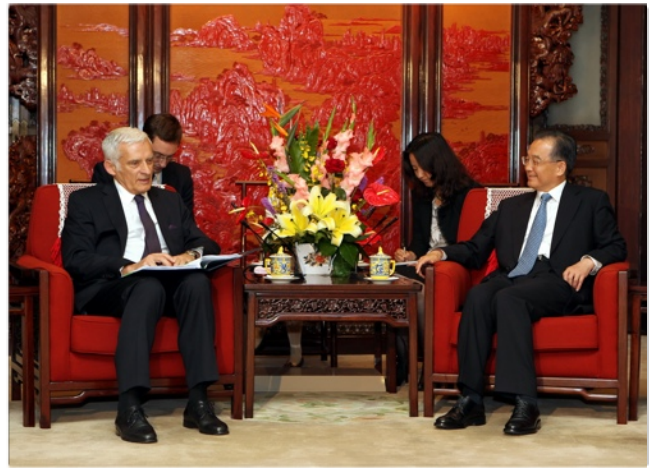
During my term in office, the **accession of the EU to the European Convention on Human Rights** was of major importance to me, as our citizens consider the EU to have a pivotal role in the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms not only abroad, but also at home. With the completion of this step our citizens have an additional external/international body to guarantee the respect of their rights towards EU institutions. This implements the **Stockholm programme** which set as its major objectives the promotion of fundamental rights in Europe. During this process, I called for the closest cooperation and involvement of the European Parliament so as to ensure that this important step which involves many technical and legal details be taken with the maximum of support, accuracy and in the best interest of our citizens.

C) Promoting human rights and gender equality:

In my actions to defend and promote human rights I am proud that with your support, we established the **Sakharov Prize Network**, bringing our laureates together with Members, experts, other human rights defenders, the NGO community, journalists, as well as institutional figures, while reaching out to our citizens' constituencies. This is what we did with quite a notable success with our **Sakharov Prize conference** in Brussels (European

Parliament and Bozar Cultural Centre) on 23 November 2011, which brought together many of the prize's laureates. I believe that this network of the Sakharov Prize laureates has **real potential** to function as a group of people with great authority and legitimacy, to defend the universal cause of human rights.

Throughout my term in office, I considered it essential to **speak out clearly and regularly on a high number of cases of human rights violations** and insisted on meeting human rights defenders and civil society representatives during my visits.



In **China**, in May 2010, I raised the issue of imprisoned dissidents, including Sakharov Prize winner Hu Jia. During my visit to **Russia** (June 2010), the first trip of the EP president in 12 years to the country, I used the opportunity to discuss the cases of Anna Politkovskaya, Mikhail Khodorkovsky and Sergei Magnitsky with President Medvedev.



My interventions also concerned political murders in Russia, the death sentences in China and repressive steps taken by the regimes in **Cuba** and **Belarus**. My public statements called for releasing opposition activists and prisoners of conscience such as Ai Wei Wei, Guillermo Fariñas, Aung San Suu Kyi, Liu Xiaobo, Gilat Shalit, Andrzej Poczobut, to name a few.

My mandate coincided with the **'Arab Spring'** and its aftermath. This represented a particular opportunity to advocate change for the better but also the challenge of a new wave of violence and repression, for instance in Syria, Egypt and Yemen. I also protested against death sentences for protesters in Bahrain. I did the same during my visits to China, Russia, the Eastern Partnership countries, Turkey, North Africa, Western Balkans and the Middle East.

I raised my voice concerning discriminated minorities, such as the **Roma** in Europe or religious minorities in Egypt and Pakistan. I condemned cases of xenophobia and, in particular, of homophobia.

Throughout my mandate, I have supported every action to enhance **opportunities for women**, including their role in public life, and pleaded on many occasions for a **significant representation of women to the highest posts in the EU institutions**. I believe that we have to fully profit of competence of women and to ensure equal chances at all levels. A political system which does not allow a significant representation in the decision-making bodies to the 52 per cent of the population is losing contact with our real society. I firmly believe that we as European institutions should give an example to our societies. One of my goals was to increase the participation of women in senior positions in the new **European External Action Service**.

Together with Commissioner Reding, I personally signed a letter demanding private companies to introduce **binding quotas for the employment of women** in leading positions as I fought for the introduction of quotas in favour of the **election of women to parliaments and regional and local assemblies**. I pleaded for this objective during the

interparliamentary meeting on **"Women in Politics in the European Union"** organised by our Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality last year.

I had the pleasure to celebrate with you and together with Mary Robinson, the former President of Ireland and former UN Commissioner for Human Rights as well as Nicole Fontaine, the former President of the European Parliament, the **100th International Women's Day** in the European Parliament in Strasbourg in March 2011. In 2010 we dedicated a **special day to the fight against violence against women** and I attended the interparliamentary meeting with national parliaments organised by the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality on that occasion. The social and economic costs of violence against women are enormous and have ripple effects throughout society. It was an important occasion to reiterate the European commitment together with the United Nations and UNIFEM to contrast the phenomenon which induces women in all over the world to suffer isolation, inability to work, loss of wages, lack of participation in regular activities, and limited ability to care for themselves and their children.

I supported the **European Women's Congress** during the Polish presidency of the Council. I defended the rights of women all over the world. In **Libya**, I met with representatives of more than 10 women's NGOs, which helped to initiate their cooperation with the EP and European NGOs. During my visits to the countries of the **Southern Neighbourhood**, I advocated measures to ensure the full equality of women. I worked in broad cooperation with international organisations in this area and joined UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon's

Network of Men Leaders to fight violence against women.



In other areas of policy, I supported the **accession of Romania and Bulgaria to the Schengen area**, and the revision of Frontex, and during my official visit to Malta, I met African immigrants at an immigration centre.

In 2011, we marked the 60th anniversary of the **Refugee Convention** and the 50th anniversary of the **Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness** - these are key areas where Europe's external action and responsibility meet its internal policy considerations. I visited the **Choucha refugee camp in Tunisia** and reminded our European responsibility to respond to our neighbours' expectations and help with their refugee crisis.

D) Supporting the democratic processes in the wider world:

Among the biggest international break-throughs of my term in office were events in **North Africa and the Middle East**, where spontaneous social action accelerated the course of history and where civic engagement went ahead of political decisions. We had to react quickly to support budding democracy. My actions were guided by the principle that democracy is a vital ingredient of both long-term stability and economic development. I visited **Tunisia** for a second time immediately after free elections. I was in **Libya** just a few days after the country's liberation, and in **Egypt** on

the day of the first truly democratic referendum. I was one of the first European leaders publicly to call for on Colonel Gaddafi to step down, and in March, 2011, I met in Strasbourg the representatives of the Libyan National Transitional Council.

In other countries of our neighbourhood, I emphasised the idea of closer cooperation and support from the EU in return for strengthening the democratisation processes and deep political, economic and social reforms.

E) Intercultural and religious dialogue

Throughout my mandate as President of the European Parliament, I continued and deepened the legacy of my predecessor in the field of intercultural and religious dialogue. I visited and received religious leaders from the most important Christian confessions, from Judaism and from Islam.

Together with the Presidents of the European Commission and of the European Council, I also assured a swift implementation of Article 17 of the Lisbon Treaty, establishing an open, transparent and regular dialogue with churches, religious communities and non-confessional organisations. As promised in 2010, I organised and attended two public seminars in the European Parliament following the summit meetings at the Commission, both with religious leaders and with representatives of non-confessional and philosophical organisations.



VII. Work in AFET, SEDE, DEVE and INTA committees

The **Committee on Foreign Affairs**, the **Sub-Committees on Security and Defence** and on **Human Rights**, the **Development Committee** and **International Trade Committee** are uniquely engaged in building and projecting the position of the European Union in the wider world.

Thinking about the EU's position and the role it plays in the modern world, I had to take into account the fact that the world around us has undergone a tremendous change in recent years. This impacts directly on international relations, affecting directly the European Union's security, trade relations and development policy. Therefore, one of the most important issues for me as President has been the need to **strengthen the efforts towards building a coherent European foreign and security policy, as well as cementing the image of a strong, influential and stable Europe in the world.**

During my term as the President of the European Parliament, **I have concentrated on three aspects of EU's engagement in international affairs:**



A) Global governance – increasing the influence of the EU in a multipolar world:

I have placed particular importance on strengthening relations with the EU's strategic partners in global governance, always trying to present the European Union as a **political community**. I have paid a number of visits. I went to the United States, where I have opened European Parliament's liaison office and held talks on matters of international security with the Speaker of the House of Representatives and other Congressional leaders, as well as the US Vice President and Secretary of State. During my visits to China, Russia and Latin America, I have underlined the common position and values of the EU member states on the most essential issues of global importance, such as international security, energy policy, migration, climate change or the respect of fundamental rights and freedoms. I have also presented our common position during my meetings with the Secretary General of the United Nations, representatives of the World Trade Organisation and the OECD, as well as during the official G8 and NATO meetings.

The European Parliament has successfully fought for the creation of the European External Action Service composed of **diplomats representing the entire European Union**. I have striven to secure **greater accountability** of the new Service to the Parliament, as well as a **better**





“President Buzek is one of the true champions of 21st century democracy and a person supremely well-qualified to co-chair the Transatlantic Dialogue on Democracy Support, organised by the National Democratic Institute with support from the European Commission. I was honoured to work side by side with him over the course of this dialogue to deepen transatlantic commitment and cooperation on democracy support, particularly as citizens across the Middle East and North Africa struggle to realise their democratic aspirations during this historic period of transition. President Buzek’s leadership has laid important groundwork for improving transatlantic cooperation on democracy support – an issue that must continue to be elevated on the transatlantic agenda.”

Madeleine K. Albright, U.S. Secretary of State (1997–2001)

geographic and gender balance in its composition.

Throughout my term, I emphasised the Parliament’s new responsibilities in the area of **international trade** which is increasingly recognised by our partner countries and their parliaments. We must continue to look at trade policy as the external dimension of our single market at the very heart of European integration. This means increased responsibility in the areas of our new legislative competences and exercising democratic control over multilateral and bilateral trade negotiations leading to international trade agreements, as well as their implementation. I also fully supported our Parliament’s leading role in building a meaningful parliamentary dimension to the WTO.

B) The relationship between the Union and its immediate surroundings - continuing the process of accession and cementing the new Neighbourhood Policy:

The ability to cooperate with our immediate neighbours stands as a key test of strength and efficiency of EU’s actions. Stabilisation in those countries requires democratic

structures and procedures, as well as building the foundations for lasting prosperity. **The European Union should open itself towards its closest neighbourhood and remain committed to future accessions.**

The process of EU’s **enlargement** remains the source of our internal strength and offers an impulse for further development. The division into ‘old’ and ‘new’ Europe has given in to a division between those countries with solid economic credentials and those which face economic difficulties. The most recent enlargement has created a 500 million-strong common market, it gave the EU a new energy and desire for success. When visiting Turkey and the Western Balkans, I gave a clear support to those countries’ efforts in becoming EU’s members, and I called for them to pursue the course of reform. I have held many meetings with the heads of state and government, as well as parliamentarians, from those countries, and the European Parliament together with the Hungarian parliament organised a two-day Joint Parliamentary Meeting with national parliaments of the EU Member states and the Western Balkans on the subject of a more integrated Europe in April 2011. We

have all made huge efforts which have so far brought the signing of the accession treaty with **Croatia**, together with the progress in bringing the other countries of the region closer to the Union. **I have been a keen supporter of giving a new impulse to the accession negotiations with Turkey** - a country which stands as a source of inspiration for those countries which also belong to that cultural sphere where Islam plays a key role.

For our **Eastern neighbours**, the European Union has a unique project – the Eastern Partnership. I have put much efforts into setting up its parliamentary dimension – **EuroNest**, which binds our Parliament with the Parliaments of our Eastern partners. During a number of visits to **Ukraine** and **South Caucasus**, I have put forward an offer of closer cooperation and support from the EU, expecting it to strengthen the commitment to deep political, economic and social reforms. In Moldova, I have firmly backed the creation of the pro-European coalition, which is now in power. On many occasions, I have spoken against the human rights’ violations and the breaking of democratic rules in Belarus. I have made it repeatedly clear that any

partnership must be based on a proper respect for human rights on all sides.



Europe attracts - not only with economic opportunities, but most of all with the appeal of a better standard of life. Democracy, personal freedom, prosperity, standards, culture, development, social rights – all these and many other factors make up the **civic space which we call Europe**. That is why I have been closely engaged in the democratic changes in **North Africa**, which have shaped the southern dimension of our Neighbourhood policy. The people, the citizens of those countries, have moved faster than the politicians, taking the matters into their own hands, taking advantage of the opportunities brought about by the new technologies.

I am proud to have been one of the first EU leaders to call publicly on Colonel Gaddafi to step down and the first to meet with the representatives of the Libyan Transitional National Council, here in the EP. Twice over the past year, I have visited the countries experiencing the **'Arab Spring'**, supporting the changes and discussing the most effective ways in which the EU could offer the needed assistance. I went to Egypt, Tunisia and Libya, and have met with the leadership of the Arab League and have co-presided over the **Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean**. During my visits to **North Africa** and the **Middle East**, I have always stressed the fundamental need to

resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, as the precondition for stability in the region. My visit to **Israel and Palestine**, including to Gaza, at a time when the whole international community was trying to re-start direct negotiations, was an important part of this endeavour.

C) Projecting European 'soft power' - supporting reform and ensuring respect for human rights:

Above I have described the positive impact of the European Union on its neighbours, particularly as regards respect of human rights and democratic principles. The strength of our European values has given me the credibility to also raise the issue of imprisoned dissidents in **China**. On my visit to **Russia** - the first by an President of in 12 years - I had a meeting with President Medvedev, in which I brought up the cases of, among others, Anna Politkovskaya, Mikhail Khodorkovsky and Sergei Magnitsky, as well as the situation of lawlessness and impunity in North Caucasus. I have publicly condemned the repressions carried out by the regimes in power against the citizens in **Syria, Yemen, Bahrain, Burma, Belarus and Cuba**, to cite the most prominent cases. In my meetings with the VP/HR Catherine Ashton, I have insisted that the EEAS should carry forward the issues of democratisation, human rights and defending the civil society as a matter of priority.

On all my external visits, in EU's neighbourhood and beyond, I have always insisted on meeting the **representatives of the civil society, human rights defenders, NGO representatives**. I had many similar meetings in Brussels and Strasbourg, and they have always been a source of inspiration for my work. Building a coalition of democratic states in defence of fundamental values is a key role which the EU can and must play. This was my aim in a countless number of discussions with political

leaders in the United States, Latin America and Europe.

Development aid is a strong tool to promote our values. It should not be focused on the distribution of means, but on building a real base for economic growth and job creation. This is the approach to the policy that I presented during the European Development Days in which I participated several times and in meetings with our partners from developing countries.



VIII. Summary of key personal activities 2009-12

Among the more important activities I have undertaken during my thirty months as President of the European Parliament are the following:

In addition to my regular work of chairing some sessions of the EP plenary and all meetings of the Conference of Presidents and Bureau, I have attended 12 European Councils or other EU summits, representing the Parliament's positions on a wide range of issues. I met on a monthly basis with José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Parliament, and Herman Van Rompuy, President of the European Council, as well as holding regular meetings with other senior members of the EU institutions.

I have welcomed to Brussels or Strasbourg 93 EU and non-EU heads of state and government, 30 foreign ministers and 61 (or 88 if including speakers met in national capitals too) Speakers or Presidents of national parliaments. We have discussed all the many domestic and international issues of concern to the Parliament.

I have worked to promote the standing of the Parliament on a total of 49 official visits, including in 24 countries outside of the EU which are key to promoting peace, security and human rights in the world. I held over 250 meetings with representatives of foreign institutions and non-governmental organisations, political leaders and human rights defenders to carry forward the Parliament's agenda. I have issued nearly 400 communiqués and press releases on the most pressing international issues. Of greatest political significance were visits to the United States, Russia (the first visit of the President of the European Parliament for 12 years), China, Turkey, South America and the Union's Eastern and Southern Neighbourhoods.

My visit to the United States in April 2010, reciprocated by Vice President Joe Biden's visit to Parliament soon after, raised the level of our contacts with the US Congress and Administration, as did the opening of an EP office in Washington.

Among the Speakers of parliaments from outside of the EU I met those from Pakistan, Australia, the United States, Russia, South Korea, Vietnam, Malaysia, East Timor, Mongolia, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.

IX. Thank You

In addition to all the above-mentioned actions which relate to your daily work, I also engaged in similar initiatives for other committees. They have all received a similarly detailed report.

In my daily work - whether through speeches, meetings, visits, lectures, statements and the other tools I had at my disposal as President of the European Parliament - I have always tried consistently to build up the 'Community' dimension of our European Union. In these past thirty months, I have been particularly committed to strengthening the work and the quality of the contribution of the European Parliament, which is the most democratic of the European institutions.

I believe that our Parliament is the heart of the European Union, where common policies are debated, discussed, and decided upon. It is also a forum where citizens, organisations, and political parties meet.

As parliamentarians, our duty is to include all Europeans in common actions and to be their link with Europe's policies. Let us continue to work towards making the EU as close to the citizens as we can.

I would like to **thank you** most sincerely for your help and cooperation these past two and a half years.

Yours sincerely,